

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for producing an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin composition, said method comprising:

a) introducing into an extruder an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin having a water content of at least 0.5 weight % and an additional component;

b) kneading the resin and the additional component ~~whereby~~ to form an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin composition; and

c) discharging said resin composition from the extruder;

wherein during step b) said method further comprises feeding water in a liquid state to the extruder and/or removing water in a liquid state from the extruder.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin has a water content ranging from 0.5 weight % to 70 weight %.

Claim 4 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the resin composition immediately after discharge from the extruder has a water content ranging from 5 weight % to 40 weight %.

Claim 5 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the temperature of the resin composition when melted in the extruder is in the range from 70°C to 170°C.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the additional component ranges from 0.01 weight parts to 200 weight parts per 100 weight parts of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin.

Claim 7 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the additional component comprises a resin.

Claim 8 (Original): The method according to claim 7, wherein the melting point and/or the flow-starting point of the resin is no higher than 170°C.

Claim 9 (Original): The method according to claim 7, wherein the resin composition melted in the extruder is further blended with an additive selected from a carboxylic acid, a boron compound, a phosphoric acid compound, an alkali metal salt, an alkaline earth metal salt, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 10 (Original): The method according to claim 9, wherein the additive is added as an aqueous solution.

Claim 11 (Original): A method for producing ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin composition pellets, wherein an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin obtained according to a method as claimed in claim 1 is cut to form pellets and subsequently dried until the water content is reduced to 1 weight % or lower.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) An ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin composition ~~obtained~~ produced by a the method as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 13 (New): The method according to claim 7, wherein the amount of the additional component ranges from 5 weight parts to 100 weight parts per 100 weight parts of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin.

Claim 14 (New): In a method of manufacturing an article with an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin, the improvement comprising producing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin according to the method of Claim 1.

Claim 15 (New): In a method of manufacturing an article with an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin, the improvement comprising producing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin according to the method of Claim 3.

Claim 16 (New): In a method of manufacturing an article with an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin, the improvement comprising producing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin according to the method of Claim 4.

Claim 17 (New): In a method of manufacturing an article with an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin, the improvement comprising producing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin according to the method of Claim 5.

Claim 18 (New): In a method of manufacturing an article with an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin, the improvement comprising producing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin according to the method of Claim 6.

Claim 19 (New): In a method of manufacturing an article with an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin, the improvement comprising producing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin according to the method of Claim 7.

Claim 20 (New): In a method of manufacturing an article with an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin, the improvement comprising producing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin according to the method of Claim 8.

Claim 21 (New): In a method of manufacturing an article with an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin, the improvement comprising producing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin according to the method of Claim 9.

Claim 22 (New): In a method of manufacturing an article with an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin, the improvement comprising producing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin according to the method of Claim 10.

Claim 23 (New): In a method of manufacturing an article with an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin, the improvement comprising producing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin according to the method of Claim 11.

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Claim 24 (New): In a method of manufacturing an article with an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin, the improvement comprising producing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin according to the method of Claim 13.